

Message Text

SECRET

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11

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 ORM-01 SR-02 /040 W

----- 069170

P 240234Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4001

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

COMIPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

S E C R E T SAIGON 3334

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING NHA TRANG TEL SENT 23 MAR ACTION AE SAIGON; INFO
DAO SGN BEING REPEATED TO YOU:

SECRET NHA TRANG 204

LIMDIS

DAO FOR AOSOP-IX/AOSOP-ISM

LE.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MILITARY SITUATION MR-2

1. KHANH HOA:

PROV REP KHANH HOA REPORTS THAT THE 40TH REGT AND TERRITORIALS
HAVE BEEN PULLED OUT OF KHANH DUONG DISTRICT TO DIEN KHANH DISTRICT.
THE 3RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE, HOWEVER, IS EXTENDED SLIGHTLY TO THE
NORTH OF AND THROUGH THE DAU CAU PASS (BQ 635030) TO PREVENT
ANY FURTHER PENETRATION INTO KHANH HOA BY THE COMMUNIST. THE SIZE
AND IDENTITY OF COMMUNIST UNITS IN KHANH DUONG ARE NOT KNOWN
ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT THEY HAVE CONSIDERABLE ARMORED

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SUPPORT. THE 2 RF BNS FROM NINH THUAN NOW IN KHANH HOA ARE

BEING SENT BACK TO NINH THUAN TO GUARD PHAN RANG AIRBASE.

2. PHU YEN:

RLO PHU YEN REPORTS THAT ARVN ENGINEERS HAVE NOT COMPLETED THE BRIDGE VIC BQ 8940. THE ROUTE TO TUY HOA REMAINS INTERDICTED VIC BQ 0236. ON MARCH 22, IN 2 CLASHES AT THE LATTER LOCATION, TERRITORIALS TOOK 8 WIA AND 11 MIA (COMMUNIST LOSSES NOT REPORTED).

3. BINH DINH:

THE COMMUNISTS ARE INCREASING MILITARY PRESSURE IN TAM QUAN AND AN TUC. NUMEROUS SMALL ABF'S AND GROUND CONTACTS WERE REPORTED IN TAM QUAN ON MARCH 22, WHILE IN AN TUC THE COMMUNISTS MORTARED AND GROUND ATTACKED RF POSITIONS NEAR AND AT AN TUC SUBSECTOR HQS. AS OF 222200 HRS, RADIO CONTACT WITH THE SUBSECTOR HQS HAD BEEN LOST. LATE NEWS: AN TUC SUBSECTOR HAS BEEN ABANDONED BY THE GVN. GVN FORCES THERE WILL ATTEMPT TO DESTROY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES THERE BEFORE DEPARTING.

4. QUANG DUC:

MR-2 HQS REPORTS THAT AT 221035 HRS, GIA NGHIA CAME UNDER ATTACK BY FIRE AND GROUND ATTACK (NO FURTHER RESULTS REPORTED). (AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, GIA NGHIA WAS ABANDONED BY THE GVN ON MARCH 22.)

5. NINH THUAN:

PHAN RANG AIRBASE RECEIVED TWO MORE ROCKETS LAST NIGHT AT 1915. NO DAMAGE WAS INFLICTED. OUR PROV REP ESTIMATES THAT THERE ARE NOW 3-5000 "REFUGEES" FROM DALAT IN PHAN RANG. MEANWHILE, IN DALAT, NO EVIDENCE OF ANY MILITARY CAUSE FOR THIS PANIC HAS BEEN DISCOVERED.

6. AT THE MR-2 MORNING BRIEFING OF MARCH 23, MG PHU GAVE AN IMPASSIONED SPEECH IN WHICH HE CONTENDED THAT IF GVN FORCES IN KHANH HOA FIGHT WITH DETERMINATION, THEY CAN HOLD NHA TRANG FOR ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO. PHU'S INTENTION OBVIOUSLY WAS TO BOLSTER MORALE WITHIN HIS STAFF CORPS.

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LEHMANN

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